

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /112 W
----- 128469

R 031418Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9731

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2227

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO ADDRESS BY GENERAL GALVAO
DE MELO

REF: LISBON 2160

SUMMARY: GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO'S TV ADDRESS OF MAY 27
HAS BEEN TARGET OF CRITICISM BY SOCIALISTS AND OTHERS
OF NON-COMMUNIST LEFT. WHILE SEVERAL EDITORIALS HAVE
CRITICIZED THE GENERAL INDIRECTLY, SOCIALISTS REACTED

STRONGLY AND DIRECTLY, SAYING GALVAO
DE MELO OVER-
REACTED IN HIS ASSERTION THAT JUNTA WILL ENSURE ORDER
AND PREVENT EXCESSES. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTERNOON DAILY DIARIO DE LISBOA (INDEPEDENT, LEFT
LEANING) HAS CARRIED TWO SIGNED ARTICLES COMMENTING
ADVERSELY ON SPEECH. MAY 28 COMMENT ADOPTED TONE OF
"MORE IN SORROW THAN ANGER." SAID GALVAO DE MELO WAS
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MISTAKEN--NOT BECAUSE WHAT HE SAID WAS WRONG, BUT BECAUSE

HE FAILED TO DISCUSS EVILS OF OLD REGIME. IT IS ONLY AFTER ONE REALIZES EVILS COMMITTED BY OLD REGIME THAT ONE CAN UNDERSTAND WHY SOME PORTUGUESE TODAY, OUT OF SENSE OF EUOPHORIA, ARE ACTING IN MANNER PREJUDICIAL TO GOOD ORDER. "THE APPARENT DISORDER IN WHICH WE ARE LIVING IS A 1,000 TIMES PREFERABLE TO THE 'ORDER' IN WHICH WE VEGETATED." ARTICLE CALLED ON TV AND POLITICAL PERSONAGES TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLARIFYING ISSUES FOR A PEOPLE WHICH HAS BEEN POLITICALLY DEPRIVED BY NEARLY A HALF-CENTURY OF DICTATORSHIP. A SECOND ARTICLE (MAY 30) EXAMINED LETTER READ BY GALVAO DE MELO AND DISMISSED AUTHOR'S COMPLAINTS AS PRODUCT OF A FASCIST MENTALITY.

2. SOCIALIST AFTERNOON DAILY REPUBLICA CARRIED TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SOCIALIST PARTY CRITICAL OF GALVAO DE MELO. STATEMENT EXPRESSED PARTY'S "SURPRISE AND ASTONISHMENT" AT SPEECH WHICH, IT CHARGED, GENERALIZED EXISTENCE OF DANGER FROM A FEW ISOLATED INCIDENTS AND FINISHED BY CASTING DOUBT ON THE CIVIC MINDEDNESS OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. STATEMENT ALSO FAULTED GALVAO DE MELO FOR HAVING DONE NOTHING TO CHECK ALARMIST CLIMATE WHICH SOME REACTIONARY CIRCLES ARE TRYING TO CREATE.

3. REPUBLICA CARRIED ARTICLE MAY 28 ATTACKING GALVAO DE MELO'S LETTER WRITER AS BEING NEITHER AN AUTHENTIC PORTUGUESE NOR A CHRISTIAN. MORNING DAILY SECULO CARRIED TEXT SOCIALIST PARTY STATEMENT WITHOUT COMMENT. GOVERNMENT-LEANING DIARIO DE NOTICIAS CARRIED EDITORIAL MAY 29 ENDORSING GALVAO DE MELO SPEECH.

4. COMMENT: SOCIALIST PARTY'S COMMUNIQUE STANDS OUT AS ONLY DIRECT REBUTTAL BY RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF JUNTA'S EFFORT, VIA GALVAO DE MELO SPEECH, TO PUT LIGHT TOUCH ON THE BRAKES. PCP SILENT. SOCIALISTS MAY BE TRYING TO BEGIN ESTABLISHING RECORD OF INDEPENDENCE, PERHAPS AS CONSEQUENCE THEIR BEING IN SHADOW OF HIGHLY VISIBLE AND WELL ORGANIZED COMMUNIST PARTY COMPETING WITH THEM ON THE LEFT. SCOTT

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